

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
EB-08 OMB-01 NSC-05 /079 W
-----117496 211925Z /42

R 211817Z DEC 77
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8368
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 12951

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL DEBRIEFING: JOINT JET
PILOT TRAINING (JJPT)

REFS: (A) USNATO 12210 DTG 051807Z DEC 77,
(B) USNATO 12243 DTG 061606Z DEC 77.

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1. DURING ROUTINE DEBRIEFING OF US DEFAD LEGERE BY
DANISH DEFAD BELLING ON THE RECENT EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL,
BELLING MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH RESPECT TO THE
JJPT ISSUE:

-- JUST PRIOR TO THE EUROGROUP MEETING, THE TURKS MOVED
ON THE POLITICAL, REPEAT POLITICAL, LEVEL TO SAY THAT
THEY WANTED TO REDO THEIR CALCULATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO THE ECONOMIC PART OF THEIR SUBMISSION.
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-- GIVEN THE HIGH LEVEL AT WHICH THE REQUEST WAS MADE AND
THE PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY OF TURKEY'S PRESENT POSITION
VIS-A-VIS NATO, EUROGROUP MEMBERS AGREED THAT IT WOULD
NOT BE POLITIC TO FORCE A DECISION AT THIS TIME.

-- EUROGROUP INSIDERS DO NOT REALISTICALLY THINK THAT

TURKEY IS COMPETITIVE IN THIS AREA AND ARE LOOKING FOR A COMPENSATORY TRAINING PROJECT FOR THE TURKS. THEY REGARD IDENTIFICATION OF SUCH A PROJECT AS A "POLITICAL NECES-SITY".

-- FINDING SUCH A PROJECT WILL BE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY BY WYNAENDTS (DUTCH DEFAD AT NATO AND BELLING'S SUCCESSOR AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROSTAFFGROUP WHEN THE DUTCH ASSUME THE EUROGROUP CHAIRMANSHIP ON JANUARY 1, 1978).

2. US DEFAD LEGERE SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE UNDERSTANDABLY UNHAPPY WITH THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS DELAYS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT AND WERE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING IF THEIR 1975 OFFER COULD BE MAINTAINED ANY LONGER. HE ASKED BELLING IF THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF A SLIPPAGE BEYOND MAY. BELLING REPLIED THAT THE SENSE OF THE MEETING WAS THAT A DECISION MUST BE REACHED IN MAY. WHETHER THE TURKS WOULD TRY TO DELAY A DECISION AGAIN, HE DID NOT KNOW.

3. US DEFAD LEGERE ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE US WAS UNABLE FOR BUDGETARY REASONS TO KEEP THE OFFER OPEN UNTIL MAY AND HAD TO ASK EUROGROUP MEMBERS TO MAKE UNILATERAL DECISIONS BEFORE THAT TIME. BELLING REPLIED THAT:

-- SUCH ACTION WOULD BE REGARDED BY THE TURKS AS A "SLAP CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE FACE".

-- THAT MINISTERS, HAVING FORMALLY AGREED TO CONSIDER THE TURKISH RESUBMISSION, WOULD BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO RENEGE ON THAT COMMITMENT.

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4. LEGERE REITERATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE US COULD MAINTAIN ITS OFFER THROUGH MAY BUT WAS CURIOUS AS TO WHAT THE LIKELY EUROGROUP REACTION WOULD BE IF THE US STIPULATED A MAY DEADLINE FOR A DECISION, THEREBY ALLOWING EUROGROUP MEMBERS TO MEET THEIR MORAL COMMITMENT BUT ALSO PRECLUDING ANY FURTHER DELAY. BELLING RESPONDED THAT:

-- FULL EUROGROUP ENDORSEMENT OF THE US POSITION IS LIKELY AT THE MAY MEETING, PARTICULARLY IF THE TURKS ARE OFFERED A COMPENSATORY TRAINING PROJECT AND THE HOPE THAT JJPT MIGHT BE VIABLE IN TURKEY 8 OR 9 YEARS FROM NOW.

-- IF NOT, IT IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EUROGROUP HAS NO SPECIAL MANDATE FOR THIS DECISION. THEREFORE, AS A MINIMUM, THE GERMANS, THE DUTCH, THE NORWEGIANS, AND THE DANES WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT THE US OFFER AT THAT TIME,

PARTICULARLY AS THERE IS NOT A VALID EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVE.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUND BELLING TO BE A RELIABLE AND ACCURATE INTERPRETER OF EUROGROUP ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS AND ARE THEREBY INCLINED TO TAKE HIS COMMENTS AT FACE VALUE. WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT THE US CAN MAINTAIN ITS JJPT OFFER THROUGH THE MAY EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE OFFER CAN BE KEPT OPEN UNTIL THEN, WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HAVING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WRITE THE DUTCH MINISTER OF DEFENSE

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(KRUISINGA) DIRECTLY, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE INCOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROGROUP, TO INFORM HIM THAT OUR OFFER, AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, WILL EXPIRE IN MAY. END COMMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.BENNETT

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